

House Bill 318

By: Representatives Graves of the 137th and Burkhalter of the 50th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4B of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the
2 Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission and ticket brokers, so as to change the
3 definition of a ticket broker; to change the provisions relating to requirements for engaging
4 in the practice or business of a ticket broker; to change the provisions relating to ticket sales,
5 disclosure requirements, resale restrictions, and refunds; to provide that a ticket broker and
6 its employees, agents, and assigns are criminally prohibited from reselling or offering for
7 resale any ticket within a certain distance from the venue where an event or contest is to be
8 held or is being held; to change the provisions relating to advertising; to repeal certain
9 provisions relating to county and municipal ordinances; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
10 other purposes.

11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

12 **SECTION 1.**

13 Chapter 4B of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to the Georgia
14 Athletic and Entertainment Commission and ticket brokers, is amended by striking paragraph
15 (19) of Code Section 43-4B-1, relating to definitions, and inserting in its place the following:

16 "(19) 'Ticket broker' means:

17 ~~(A) Any any person who is involved in the business of reselling tickets of admission~~
18 ~~to athletic contests, concerts, theater performances, amusements, exhibitions, or other~~
19 ~~entertainment events held in this state to which the general public is admitted and who~~
20 ~~charges a premium in excess of the price of the ticket; or~~

21 ~~(B) Any person who has a permanent office or place of business in this state who is~~
22 ~~involved in the business of reselling tickets of admission to athletic contests, concerts,~~
23 ~~theater performances, amusements, exhibitions, or other entertainment events held~~
24 ~~inside or outside this state to which the general public is admitted and who charges a~~
25 ~~premium in excess of the price of the ticket.~~

The term ticket broker shall not include the owner, operator, lessee, or tenant of the property in which an athletic contest or entertainment event is being held or the sponsor of such a contest or event or the authorized ticket agent of such persons."

SECTION 2.

Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 43-4B-26, relating to requirements for ticket brokers, and inserting in its place the following:

"43-4B-26.

In order to engage in the practice or business of a ticket broker a person shall be required to:

(1) Maintain a permanent office or place of business in this state, excluding a post office box, for the purpose of engaging in the business of a ticket broker;

~~(1)~~(2) Apply to the commission for a ticket broker's license on a form designated by the commission, pay an annual license fee of ~~\$500.00~~ \$400.00, and renew the license annually;

~~(2)~~(3) Pay any local tax required by a local government; ~~and~~

~~(3)~~(4) Register for sales and use tax purposes pursuant to Article 1 of Chapter 8 of Title 48; ~~and~~

(5) Provide satisfactory evidence to the commission that the ticket broker has posted or has made provision for the posting of a bond. The required bond shall be executed in favor of the state, in the amount of \$100,000.00, with a surety company authorized to do business in this state and conditioned to pay damages not to exceed the amount of such bond to any person aggrieved by any act of the principal named in such bond, which act is in violation of this Code section."

SECTION 3.

Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 43-4B-28, relating to ticket sales, disclosure requirements, resale restrictions, and refunds, and inserting in its place the following:

"43-4B-28.

(a) The ticket broker shall be required to:

~~(1) Disclose~~ Post at its established place of business the terms of the purchaser's right to cancel the purchase of a ticket from a ticket broker;

(2) Disclose to the purchaser the refund policy of the ticket broker should an athletic contest or entertainment event be canceled; ~~and~~

(3) Disclose to the purchaser in writing the difference between the face value of the ticket and the amount which the ticket broker is charging for such ticket; and

1 (4) Sell tickets only at its permanent office or place of business; provided, however, that
2 delivery of one or more tickets after the transaction is completed to a place other than the
3 ticket broker's office or place of business shall not violate this paragraph.

4 (b)(1) A ticket broker shall be prohibited from employing any agent or employee for the
5 purpose of making future purchases of tickets from the owner, operator, lessee, or tenant
6 of the property on which an athletic contest or entertainment event is to be held.

7 (2) Each ticket broker, including any affiliated group of ticket brokers, shall be
8 prohibited from acquiring and reselling in excess of 1 percent of the total tickets allocated
9 for any contest or event.

10 (3) Unless otherwise provided in a written agreement between a ticket broker and the
11 purchaser, a ticket broker shall be required to refund any payment received for the
12 purchase of a ticket under this article if the purchaser returns the ticket and requests a
13 cancellation of the sale thereof within 36 hours from the time of purchase of the ticket
14 and if such return is made more than 72 hours preceding the athletic contest or
15 entertainment event.

16 (4) A ticket broker shall be required to refund any payment received for the purchase of
17 a ticket under this article if the athletic contest or entertainment event is canceled and not
18 rescheduled.

19 (5) If a ticket broker guarantees in writing delivery of a ticket or tickets to an athletic
20 contest or entertainment event as provided under this article to a purchaser and fails to
21 complete such delivery, the ticket broker shall be required to provide within 15 days a full
22 refund of any amount paid by the purchaser and, in addition, shall pay the purchaser a
23 refund fee of three times the amount paid by the purchaser for each such ticket.

24 (c) A ticket broker and its employees, agents, and assigns are criminally prohibited from
25 reselling or offering for resale any ticket within ~~1,500~~ 2,700 feet from the venue where an
26 event or contest is to be held or is being held.

27 ~~(d) Any ticket broker offering to resell tickets to an athletic contest or entertainment event~~
28 ~~through any printed, broadcast, or Internet advertising shall include in such advertising the~~
29 ~~license number of such ticket broker offering such tickets for resale."~~

30 SECTION 4.

31 Said chapter is further amended by striking Code Section 43-4B-30, relating to county and
32 municipal ordinances, and inserting in its place the following:

33 "43-4B-30.

34 (a) With regard to any single athletic contest or entertainment event which occurs no more
35 often than once annually and with regard to any series of athletic contests which occur no
36 more often than once annually and which occur within a time period not exceeding ten

1 days, the municipal corporation in which such contest, event, or series of contests is to be
2 held, or if the contest, event, or series of contests is to be held in an unincorporated area,
3 the county of such unincorporated area, is authorized to enact by ordinance regulations
4 governing ticket brokers for such contest, event, or series of contests which are more
5 restrictive than the provisions of this article.

6 (b) The municipal corporation in which an athletic contest or entertainment event is to be
7 held, or if the contest or entertainment event is to be held in an unincorporated area, the
8 county of such unincorporated area, is authorized to enact an ordinance prohibiting the
9 resale or offering for resale of one or more tickets by a ticket broker or by a person who is
10 the original purchaser for personal use of one or more tickets within 2,700 feet of a venue
11 which seats or admits 15,000 or more persons.

12 ~~(c)(1) Municipal corporations and counties in this state are authorized to enact an~~
13 ~~ordinance requiring an individual reselling tickets or offering tickets for resale in such~~
14 ~~municipal corporations or in the unincorporated area of such counties to obtain a permit~~
15 ~~from the municipal corporation or county for such activity if the individual:~~

16 ~~(A) Engages in reselling tickets or offering tickets for resale in or on the streets,~~
17 ~~sidewalks, or other places owned or operated by such municipal corporation or county~~
18 ~~and open to the public regardless of whether such individual maintains a permanent~~
19 ~~office or place of business for reselling tickets or offering tickets for resale in this state;~~
20 ~~or~~

21 ~~(B) Does not maintain a permanent office or place of business in this state.~~

22 ~~(2) A municipality or county may charge a fee for such permit not to exceed \$150.00.~~

23 ~~(3) In order to obtain a permit, individuals first must provide proof of licensing under~~
24 ~~Code Section 43-4B-26 to the municipality or county issuing such permits.~~

25 ~~(4) The provisions of this Code section shall not apply to an original purchaser for~~
26 ~~personal use.~~

27 ~~(5) The provisions of this Code section shall not apply to the delivery of one or more~~
28 ~~tickets after a sales transaction is completed at a ticket broker's permanent office or place~~
29 ~~of business in this state."~~

30 SECTION 5.

31 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.